

project into an appropriation bill in the dead of night.

Clearly, this is not the case with the 38 military construction projects we are considering today. The White House admits that many of these projects were canceled in error on the basis of inaccurate information. Further, nearly all the projects were included in the Pentagon's long-term defense plan. These projects are not examples of the type of wasteful and excessive spending that the line-item veto was intended to address.

I have long supported giving the President the tools necessary to root out wasteful spending projects. In previous years I voted to grant the President a form of the line-item veto to rescind unnecessary spending; under this version, it would take a majority of the House and Senate to disapprove the President's veto. I continue to believe that it is inadvisable to give any President a line-item veto that requires two-thirds of both Houses of Congress to override. The requirement for a supermajority to override unwisely shifts too much power to the executive branch.

Despite this concern, I intend to fully support the President's veto of truly wasteful spending projects. As I have indicated, the 38 military construction projects before us today do not meet that test.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2631.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ACT OF 1997

##### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation calling for President Clinton to submit to the U.S. Senate and for the U.S. Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. America needs to affirm these fundamental human rights for all children. Our Nation remains one of a handful of nations that have not seen fit to affirm civil, political, economical, social, and humanitarian rights for children.

Why should we do this? Let me cite just one example.

It is wrong that at least 200 million defenseless children are working around the world today without any hope of ever seeing the inside of a classroom. Many of these abused children are making products exported for sale in our shopping malls, sporting goods stores, and oriental rug shops all across America.

Consider the plight of millions of child laborers, some as young as 4 years old, who are sold into virtual slavery; that is, bonded and indentured servants, and chained to looms for 14 hours a day hand-knotting the oriental rugs that grace the foyers and living rooms of countless homes and offices all across our country.

Exploited children toil in factories, mines, fields, at looms, and even in brothels, sacrificing their youth, health, and innocence for little or no wages.

They are hand-stitching the Nike and Adidas soccer balls that our kids practice with every day. The very same soccer balls that were used at the Atlanta Olympics last year.

They are sewing the blouses and slacks that Kathie Lee Gifford was paid \$7 million a

year to promote for Walmart stores until she was embarrassed last year.

They are making Mattel Barbie Dolls that little girls across America play with every day.

They are even sharpening the surgical instruments used in our hospital operating rooms.

This situation is totally unacceptable and there are actions that must be taken to stop this affront to basic human decency. That is why I authored the recently enacted law to prohibit the importing of any products made by forced or indentured child labor for the first time in our Nation's history.

At the same time, our standing to push for a crackdown on child labor around the world would be strengthened if we would ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I firmly believe trade is not an end in itself, but a means toward attaining more economic justice, social responsibility, and environmental sustain ability in the United States and the global economy.

The fact that current trade rules go to great lengths to protect property rights, while ignoring the rights of working people—especially children—says much about the absurd priorities of our current trade policies.

Inside and outside the halls of government, we have the power to change this sorry state of affairs. Access to the American marketplace and consumer purchasing power are powerful sources of leverage that should be used to encourage foreign producers and importers to treat defenseless children and all workers with dignity and respect.

We need a trading system that protects the fundamental rights of children and all working people and not just the property rights of corporations and financiers. I am especially delighted that some Vermont teenagers have already begun to speak out and demand action in defense of kids overseas who cannot help themselves. I applaud their human rights leadership and I hope this Congress will go beyond the recently enacted ban that I authored to cut foreign aid to countries that fail to enforce their own child labor laws and to keep any imports made by children under 14 who are employed in manufacturing or mining out of the U.S. marketplace as has been proposed by Senator HARKIN, Congressman FRANK, and myself.

Mobilizing the global community against the scourge of child labor is critically important. Certainly, this effort will be greatly enhanced if America joins 169 other nations that have already ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### CONGRATULATING AMERICAN LEGION LEON BURSON POST NO. 395 OF PLANO, IL

##### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members and auxiliary of American Legion Leon Burson Post No. 395 in Plano, IL, on the post's 78th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, the Leon Burson Post No. 395 of the American Legion was granted its charter in 1919, shortly after the guns fell silent in World War I, and the Legion auxiliary was

chartered in 1920. The servicemen and women who banded together to form this post shortly after our soldiers and sailors returned home were interested in keeping their spirit of camaraderie alive. They came together through the American Legion with a goal toward serving their community and their fellow veterans, and they have been meeting that challenge ever since.

Working with other community organizations, including other service clubs, civic groups and churches of varied faiths, the men and women of the Leon Burson Post have served their community faithfully and well. They participate in programs to benefit hospitalized veterans, they support the Illinois Boys and Girls State programs, sponsor Boy Scout and Cub Scout organizations, work with the local Mothers Against Gangs group, and host the annual Plano Youth Tackle Football banquet. They have held fundraisers for local residents who have needed assistance in meeting long-term health care needs and have even provided scholarships for local students. I could go on and on with the projects and programs these men and women have participated in, but let me just say that those that I have mentioned are but a brief sample of the fine efforts displayed by these dedicated post members.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations such as these that continue to make our Nation strong. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the post's anniversary, and to congratulate American Legion Leon Burson Post No. 395 of Plano, IL for their efforts on behalf of their community and our Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO HOLD OWNERS OF PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION LIABLE FOR UNPAID REFUNDS OF UNEARNED INSTITUTIONAL CHARGES

##### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, November 9, 1997*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Education to hold owners of proprietary institutions liable for unpaid refunds of unearned institutional charges.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is necessary to protect students caught in the occasional mismanagement of higher education institutions. Students should be able to attend an educational institution and trust that their tuition and financial aid dollars are being handled properly. When this is not the case, the Secretary should have the power to impose appropriate sanctions not only against the proprietary institution involved, but also against the owner of the institution.

This legislation covers owners of for-profit institutions. I want to be clear that public and private non-profit institutions would not be affected by this legislation. Trustees of public and private colleges and universities would not be considered as owners or proprietors of an institution for the purposes of this legislation.

My bill will solidify the Secretary's power to hold the owner or owners of a proprietary higher education institution liable for financial